

SWA. HAM RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL.R E P O R T for year ending December 31st, 1938

by the

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH.

To the Chairman and Members of the Rural District Council.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

I have the honour to submit my Annual Report on the health of the District for the year 1938.

Statistics and Social Conditions of the Area.

Area (in acres) ..... 93,216

Registrar General's estimate of Resident  
Population Mis. 1938 ..... 7,567No. of inhabited houses according to  
Rate Books end of 1938 ..... 2,269

Rateable Value ..... £19,016

Sum represented by a Penny Rate ... £95.

The District is composed of 29 Parishes. The population of the area is scattered.

	<u>Total.</u>	<u>Male.</u>	<u>Female.</u>
Live Births, Legitimate	98	50	42
Illegitimate		3	3

Birth Rate per 1,000 of the  
estimated Resident Population 12.8

Still Births ..... 3                      2                      1

Rate per 1,000 total (Live or  
Still) Births ..... 9.90

Deaths ..... 98

Death Rate per 1,000 of the  
estimated Resident population 12.9Deaths from Puerperal causes. (Headings 29 & 30 of the  
Registrar General's Short List.

	<u>Deaths.</u>	<u>Rate for 1,000</u> <u>total Live and</u> <u>Still Births.</u>
No. 29 Puerperal Sepsis .....	Nil	Nil
No. 30 Other Puerperal causes	Nil	Nil
Deaths of Infants under 1 year	<u>Total.</u> 5	<u>M.</u> <u>F.</u> 3          2
All Infants per 1,000 live births	51	
Legitimate Infants per 1,000		
Legitimate Live Births	51	
Illegitimate      ditto	Nil	



	<u>Total.</u>	<u>M.</u>	<u>F.</u>
Deaths from Cancer all ages	21	6	15
Deaths from Measles do.	Nil		
Deaths from Whooping Cough do.	Nil		
Deaths from Diarrhoea (under 2 years of age)	1		1

Particulars of any unusual or excessive mortality during the year which has received or required comment -- NONE.

#### General Provision of Health Service for the Area.

##### Public Health Officers of the Local Authority:

- (a) District Medical Officer of Health.
- (b) Sanitary Inspector ) Certified Royal Sanitary  
Meat and Foods Inspector. ) Institute, London.

No Health Visitors or Assistants are employed by the Council.

- (a) Laboratory Facilities. Samples of water and materials for Bacteriological examination are sent to the Public Analyst at Norwich and County Laboratories.
- (b) Ambulances. The District Council have no Ambulances but these are available from Swaffham, Thetford and Dereham.
- (c) Nursing in the Home. No Nursing is provided by the Local Authority. All parishes are now covered by District Nurses provided by District Associations under the control of the County Council.
- (d) Treatment Centres - Clinics.  
There is an Infant Welfare Clinic in Swaffham under the Norfolk County Council.
- (e) Hospitals. Cases are sent to the following:
  - (1) Cottage Hospitals (a) Swaffham  
(b) Watton.
  - (2) West Norfolk & Lynn General Hospital.
  - (3) Norfolk & Norwich General Hospital.
  - (4) Attleborough and Gressenhall Public Institutions.
- (f) Infectious Diseases. Urgent cases are sent to Dereham Isolation Hospital, others are nursed at home.

#### Sanitary Circumstances of the Area.

Water Supplies. The chief source of water for domestic use is obtained from wells. There is an increasing tendency to sink deep bores to obtain a purer and more plentiful supply. At the same time every effort is made to improve the water supply from wells. Samples are taken where contamination is suspected. Shallow wells become contaminated by lack of adequate drainage and facilities for disposal of Night Soil and refuse.

No. of samples taken during the year .....	24
Analysis of Samples. Satisfactory .....	19
Unfit .....	5
Wells cleaned out & repaired .....	21
New wells sunk .....	5
Wells closed .....	2
New borings .....	8



Rivers and Streams. The River Nar was found to be polluted with sewerage. The source was traced and steps taken to eliminate this, but it is essential that periodical samples should be taken. Sewerage from Watton (Wayland R.D.C.) is discharged into the tributary to the Wissey during some parts of the year. On complaint being made by this Council the sewerage was treated by irrigation.

Drainage and Sewerage. There is no system of drainage or sewerage in the Area. A number of large houses have their own schemes, but most cottages dispose of slops and other waste water on the gardens or into ditches. The open sewers are kept cleansed and obsolete drains are reconstructed. Properly constructed drainage to soakaways or cesspools would be an advantage in cases of property with small ground space. New houses including Council property are now being provided with modern drainage.

Sporle. The open sewer ditch is kept cleaned out but should be piped in.

Closet Accommodation. There are still a few old, insanitary privy vaults in the District. Most of these are situated on farms and other premises where ample land is available for disposal of the refuse. Progress in obtaining the conversion of these to the more sanitary pail closets continues, especially where they are situated near houses or wells.

No. converted to pail system during the year .....	46
Additional Sanitary Conveniences provided .....	8
Water closets installed .....	6

Public Cleansing. There is no public system of controlled scavenging in the Area. The increasing accumulation of tins, bottles, and other similar refuse is a serious nuisance. This type of refuse is deposited in out of the way corners, ditches and road side verges, causing danger to cattle and spoiling the countryside. Where cottages have small gardens, the continual depositing of this refuse has resulted in the land being in some instances 2 or 3 feet higher than the ground floor level thus causing dampness to the houses.

Your Sanitary Inspector succeeded in arranging schemes with the co-operation of the Parish Councils of Gt. Cressingham and Sporle, in addition to Foulden, Gooderstone and Bradenhams for the collection and disposal of this refuse in disused pits, under his supervision. The schemes are much appreciated and efforts are being made to complete schemes for the whole Area.

#### Sanitary Inspection of the Area.

The Sanitary Inspector makes frequent visits to each parish. His report in tabular form is as under:

Complaints investigated .....	49
Total No. of inspections made under the Public Health & Housing Acts .....	820
No. of water samples taken .....	24
No. of interviews with owners .....	48
No. of Milk samples taken .....	67
No. of Preliminary Notices .....	115



No. of Statutory Notices served:	
(a) Housing Acts .....	16
(b) Public Health Acts .....	9
No. of Houses repaired and improved	
Informal .....	78
Formal .....	16
No. of Houses disinfected (Infectious disease)	28
No. of visits made .....	32
Privies converted to pails .....	46
Accumulations of refuse removed .....	9
Additional Sanitary conveniences obtained	8
New drainage system constructed .....	13
Inspection of Slaughterhouses .....	78
Inspection of Carcasses .....	206
No. of carcasses condemned .....	4
No. of Shops inspected - Butchers .....	106
Fried Fish .....	8
General Stores .....	55
Bakehouses .....	12
Workshops .....	12
Inspections of Cowsheds and Dairies .....	249
Inspections of Factories .....	5
Milking Sheds reconstructed .....	4
New Cowsheds built .....	4

#### Shop Act. 1934.

No. of shops in the District .....	60
These may be classified as under:	
General Stores .....	45
General Stores with Post Office .....	13
Directly attached to the house .....	55
Lock-up shops .....	5
Shops run by occupiers .....	55
Shops employing assistants .....	5

In all cases the Sanitary Conveniences and ventilation are sufficient.

Camping Sites. There are none in the District.

Smoke Abatement. There are no factories with smoke stacks.

Swimming Pools. There are none in the District.

Eradication of bed bugs. Although many houses are very old and constructed of material likely to harbour bugs, I have not had any complaints, and your Sanitary Inspector assures me that he has not seen any evidence of infestation.

Schools. There are 21 Elementary Schools. The sanitary arrangements are kept in good condition. Some schools were closed when the incidence of infectious disease was very heavy. This applied chiefly to influenzal coughs and colds and in this respect the reports from the teachers have been most helpful. The water in Hilborough School well was found contaminated and instructions were given to boil the water before using pending a better supply.

Housing. Inspection of Dwellinghouses during the year.

(1) Total No. of dwelling houses inspected for housing defects (under Public Health & Housing Acts) .....	452
No. of dwelling houses (included under subhead (1) which were inspected and recorded under the Housing Consolidated Regulations, 1925 .....	308
No. of dwelling houses so dangerous or injurious to health as to be unfit for human habitation .....	23



Remedy of defects during the year without service  
of formal notices .....

(2) No. of defective dwelling houses rendered fit in  
consequence of informal notice by the Local  
Authority or their Officers ..... 67

(3) Action under Statutory Powers during the year.  
Proceedings under Sec. 9, 10 & 16 of the Housing  
Act, 1936 ..... 53  
No. of dwelling houses in respect of which notices  
were served requiring repairs ..... 16  
No. of dwelling houses which were rendered fit  
after service of formal notices  
By Owners ..... 14  
By Local Authority in default .. Nil.

Proceedings under the Public Health Acts.

No. of dwelling houses in respect of which Notices  
were served requiring defects to be remedied ..... 4  
No. of dwelling houses in which defects were  
remedied after service of formal notices:  
By Owners ..... 4  
By Local Authority in default . nil

Proceedings under Sections 11 & 13 of Housing Act, 1936.

No. of dwelling houses in respect of which  
Demolition Orders were made ..... 11  
No. of dwelling houses demolished in pursuance  
of Demolition Orders ..... 5

Proceedings under Section 12 of the Housing Act, 1936.

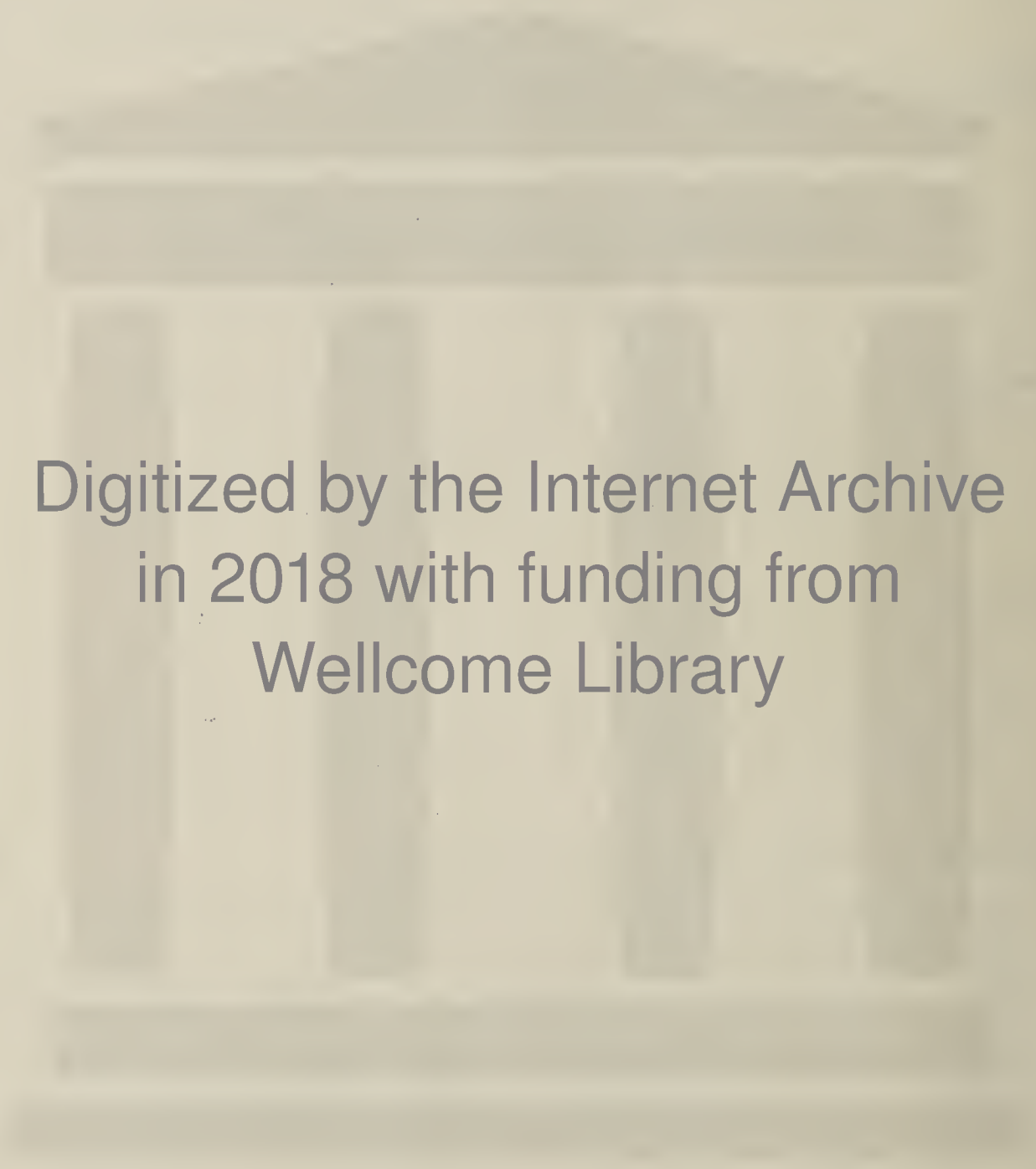
No. of tenements or underground rooms in respect of  
which Closing Orders were made ..... 7  
No. of separate tenements or underground rooms in  
respect of which Closing Orders were determined,  
the Tenant or room having been rendered fit ... 2

Housing Act, 1936, Part IV - Overcrowding.

No. of dwelling houses overcrowded at end of year ..... 13  
No. of families dwelling therein ..... 14  
No. of persons dwelling therein ..... 86  
No. of new cases of overcrowding reported during the year 10  
No. of cases of overcrowding relieved during the year 27  
No. of persons concerned in such cases ..... 180  
Particulars of any cases in which dwelling houses  
have again become overcrowded after the Local Authority  
have taken steps for the abatement of overcrowding.

Overcrowding. There are many instances where the number of persons  
permitted coincide with the number in the family. Although  
these cottages are not legally overcrowded, more bedroom  
accommodation is desirable and urgently needed. In families  
where there are children of both sexes over the age of ten, two  
bedrooms are not sufficient to allow their proper separation.

Inspection of Houses. During the year I accompanied your Committee  
on inspection of houses considered unfit. Closing Orders  
and Undertakings not to relet have resulted in some of these  
houses becoming derelict and unsightly.



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## Inspection and Supervision of Food.

Milk Supply. Milk & Dairies Order 1926.

145 Producers and Retailers are registered in this District.

An opportunity is taken on change of tenancy to bring Cowsheds and premises up to the standard required under the Order. As a result of verbal advice by your Sanitary Inspector four Cowsheds have been reconstructed bringing them up to the standard required and four new cowsheds built. A decided improvement has been noted in regard to cleanliness and method.

Milk (Special Designation) Order 1923 - 1926.

There are 18 Accredited Producers.

No. of samples taken .....	67
Passed .....	65
Failed .....	2
Repeat samples upon failures .....	2

Meat & Other Foods. Your Sanitary Inspector, who is a qualified Meat and Food Inspector, carries out the inspection of meat and other foods under the Public Health Acts and Meat Regulations.

### Carcases inspected and condemned.

	Cattle excluding cows.	Cows.	Calves.	Sheep & Lamb.	Pigs.
No. killed approx.	25	-	-	170	210
No. inspected.	18	-	-	64	124
All diseases except T.B. Whole carcasses condemned				4	1
Carcases of which some part of organ was condemned	-	-	-	-	-
Percentage of the no. inspected affected with disease other than T.B.				2.56	1.24

#### Tuberculosis only:

Whole carcasses condemned                      nil

Carcases of which some part  
or organ was condemned                      nil

Percentage of the No. inspected  
affected with T.B.                      nil

It has not been necessary to "seize" any foods under Sections 116-119 of the Public Health Act, 1875.

There is no Public Slaughterhouse.

No. of Private Slaughterhouses:

Registered ..... 5                      Licensed      3

These slaughterhouses are situated many miles apart, and long journeys are often made by the Sanitary Inspector in an endeavour to inspect carcasses at the time of killing, especially for emergency slaughter.



Other Foods. The bakehouses are clean, and two are up to date in appliances and construction.

There are 5 fish frying premises which have modern apparatus, and are kept clean and in good order. Inspections are made of these as often as possible.

Notifiable Diseases (other than Tuberculosis) during the year 1938.

Disease.	Total cases notified.	Cases admitted to Hospital.	Total Deaths.
Small-pox	Nil	Nil	Nil
Scarlet Fever	10	Nil	Nil
Diphtheria	1	1	Nil
Enteric Fever (including Paratyphoid)	Nil	Nil	Nil
Puerperal Fever	Nil	Nil	Nil
Puerperal Pyrexia	Nil	Nil	Nil
Pneumonia	Nil	Nil	Nil
Erysipelas	2	Nil	Nil.

<u>Cases notified.</u>	Age under 1 year.	2-3-4	5-10	10-15	20-35	45-65
Scarlet Fever	nil.	3 2	4 4	3	1 1	1
Diphtheria			1			
Typhoid	-	-	-	-	-	-
Pneumonia	-	-	-	-	;	-
Erysipelas	-	-	-	-	-	2

Prevalence of and control over Infectious Disease, and other Diseases.

A total number of 2 cases occurred during the year as follows:

Scarlet Fever 19      Diphtheria 1.      Erysipelas 2,  
Typhoid Nil.      Pneumonia Nil.

There were 4 cases of Scarlet Fever in Hilborough, 8 at Beachamwell and 1 in Cockley Cley during the first three months of the year. The others were isolated cases occurring during July to October. The Diphtheria case occurred at W.Tofts. Facilities for immunising children against Diphtheria have now been established, and can be carried out at the parents request by local doctors.

Tuberculosis. Public Health (Prevention of Tuberculosis) Regulations, 1925.

No action has been necessary.

Public Health Act, 1925 - Section 62

No action has been necessary.

New cases and Mortality during 1938.

Age Periods.	NEW CASES				DEATHS.			
	Respiratory.		Non-respiratory.		Respiratory.		Non-res.	
	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.
0	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
5	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-
15	-	-	-	-	;	-	-	-
25	-	-	-	-	-	-	;	-
35	-	1				1		
45	1	2						
65	1				2			
Totals	2	3	1		2	1		



A Register is kept of all cases notified.  
Disinfectants are supplied and premises  
disinfected after deaths.

The County Council are responsible for the  
administration of the Tuberculosis Orders and their  
Medical Officer supervises these cases.

Diphtheria.

Examinations of Pathological and Bacteriological  
specimens are made at the County Laboratory in Norwich  
without charge. These facilities are being made use of  
and are appreciated.

Anti Diphth Serum is supplied by the District  
Council.

Extract from the Report relating to the Administration of  
the Factory and Workshops Act, 1901, forwarded to the  
Secretary of State and Home Office.

Premises.	Inspections.	Occupiers prose- cuted.
Factories with mechanical power	6	Nil
Factories without do.	23	Nil
Other premises	18	Nil

<u>Defects.</u>	<u>Found</u>	<u>Remedied.</u>
Want of Cleanliness	Nil	Nil
Other nuisances	Nil	Nil.

I have the honour to be,

Ladies & Gentlemen,

Your obedient Servant,

C. S. Hall-Smith

